

Hobbies

WEEKLY

October 27th, 1943

Price Twopence

Vol. 97. No. 2506

A simple and attractive pocket battery

BEDSIDE LIGHT

HERE is a novelty electric lamp which will look most attractive on side-board or bedside table. It is a combination of woodwork and electricity, and just the thing which will appeal to our handyman.

All the parts are cut from wood with the fretsaw, and no part is more than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. There is a hollow box base in which is housed an ordinary four volt battery. From this, wires lead to two electric bulbs let into

the top of the base, and to a switch formed in the front rail of the base. Over the lamps the novelty shade is made to stand in an upright position and is permanently fixed there.

The shade is made circular, the back being a solid flat piece, while the front is made hollow, as it were,

and covered with either a stout oiled parchment paper or other semi-transparent material.

The attractive George-and-the-Dragon overlay is cut from thin wood and fixed to the front of the frame. Thus when the lamps are switched on, the light gives a sharp silhouette effect to the fretted overlay.

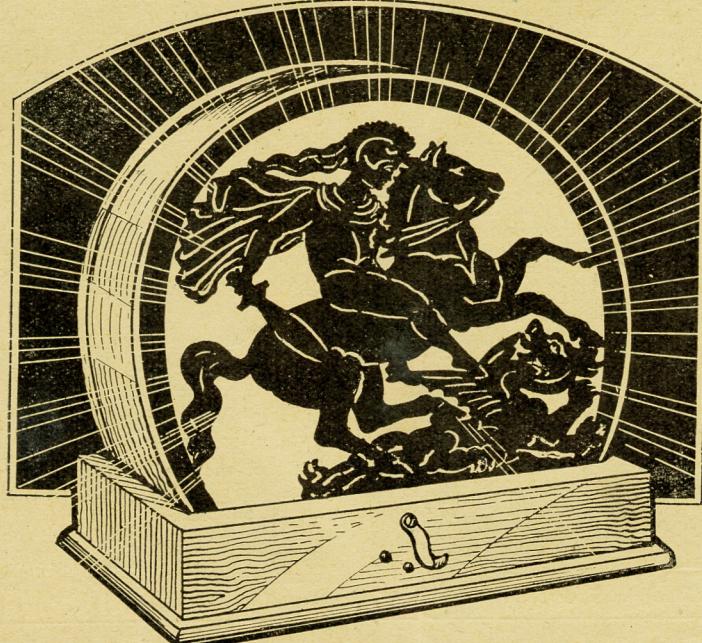
Three of Hobbies Standard panels of wood J4 will be found sufficient for cutting all the parts of the base and the lamp frame with one panel J3 for the overlay front.

If a piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. good plywood measuring 10ins. by 8ins. could be obtained for the fretted front it would perhaps be more serviceable than the $\frac{3}{16}$ in. wood. The constructional diagram Fig. 1 shows some of the main parts lettered and dimensioned ready for making up.

The Base

The base consists of parts A, B, C and D. A is the top, and it measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. Glued to A are the front and back pieces B, and the two ends C. B measures $8\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long by $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. wide by $\frac{1}{4}$ in., and C, 3ins. long by $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. wide by $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

The method of gluing up the parts is shown in Fig. 2. The floor D measures 9ins. long by 4ins. wide by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. It has all four edges rounded, and is fixed to the base with countersunk screws being made removable so that the interior of the base can be reached.



Inside the base and at one end of it, there is an inner floor E measuring 3ins. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. and this supports the battery, two fillets of wood wedging this and holding it in place (Fig. 3). The main floor D can be

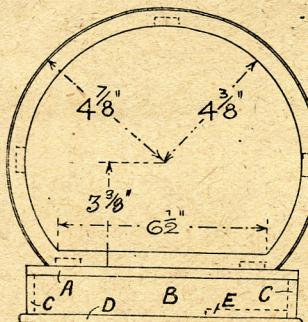


Fig. 1—General dimensions

removed without disturbing the battery and the wires attached to it.

The lamp frame (Fig. 4), consists of a main solid back, in the middle of which is cut a square opening for access to the interior. The piece so cut out can be reinserted if desired and held in place by four border slips of thin wood mitred round at the back of the square of wood.

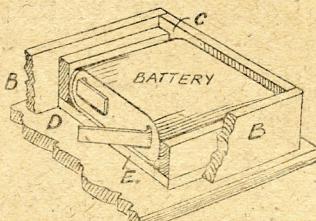


Fig. 3—Battery holder

The dimensions of the back are shown in Fig. 1, the upper circle being $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. radius and the width from the centre downwards being $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Fixed to this main back, and standing out from it, are five support pieces for the front. Each is 2ins. long by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. They are screwed through from the back.

The two lower side pieces will eventually be glued to the top of the base. The front follows the main outline of the back. The exact centre point, however, must be found, as the inner arc has to be struck to the radius shown, viz. $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and the border strip continued as the measurement shows.

The Front

The front is $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. Once the cutting is finished and the front fixed to its supports the whole will be strong enough to withstand any further handling.

Thin wood, or, if this cannot be obtained, stout card, will be bent round and glued and pinned to the edges of the back and the front of the frame. Clean off the edges neatly with glasspaper.

Almost the whole of the overlay may be taken from Hobbies design No. 2470. This overlay suits the design in hand and needs but little alteration to adapt it to the present needs. In Fig. 6 we give a repro-

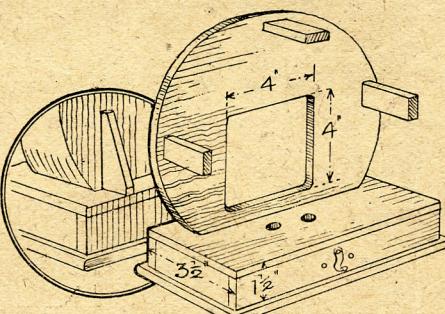


Fig. 2—Constructional details

duction of the overlay thickened up a little beneath the tail of the horse after it is severed from the pattern sheet just above the word "St. George."

The pattern should be pasted down to the wood and carefully cut out with a fine fretsaw. Remember to cut all the small interior frets before

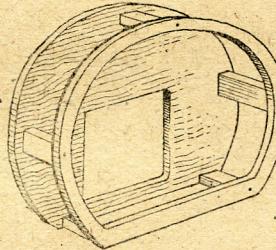


Fig. 4—The lamp compartment

doing the larger ones and before cutting round the entire outside shape. Lay the finished overlay on a sheet of oiled parchment and draw round the outline in pencil.

Cut this round with scissors and glue the paper to the back of the overlay. The whole overlay is now cleaned up and the paper pattern carefully removed from the face of it. Glue the completed overlay with its backing to the front of the frame, one or two small fret pins being put in if necessary, holes being carefully pricked in for them before this is done.

The finished shade is glued to its base and the wiring inside proceeded with. As a means of strengthening the shade with the base, add a couple of upright shaped supports at the back (Fig. 2).

The Wiring

The diagram Fig. 5 should be carefully followed when carrying out the wiring for the lamps. Two pieces of strip brass will first be angled up, drilled as shown and screwed to the underside of the top of the base immediately beneath the holes made

for the electric bulbs. Roundhead screws should be used for the fixing of these brass strips so the connecting wires may be wound round them easily and tightened.

The switch is two roundhead screws with their heads slightly filed down to give good contact, put through the front rail of the base long enough to project inside to enable the wires to be attached.

The Switch

A small switch handle is made from strip brass, drilled to take another of the roundhead screws just referred to. The lower end of the strip is curved outwards for convenience in handling. A wire leads from each of the side screws on the inside of the front, to the screws on the ends of the brass strips.

From the switch screw, the wire is lead direct to one of the battery contacts, and from its neighbour opposite another wire is connected to the two lamps. All connections are easily followed from the diagram Fig. 5.

Note the wire connecting the two lamps, and how the blackened ends of the lamp make contact with the brass strips. In this way it will be

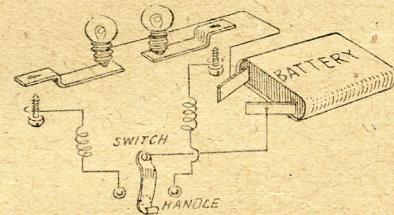


Fig. 5—Details of the circuit

seen that the switch will turn on either the red or the white light—the variation which is suggested here. The two lamps cannot be "on" together.

It is possible, however, to have the

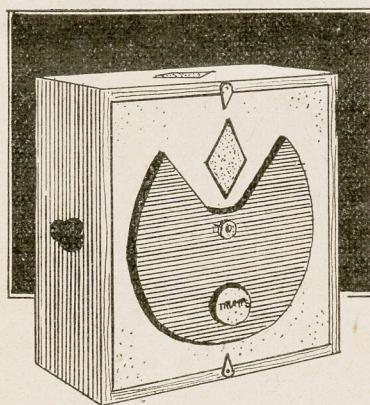


Fig. 6—How to alter the pattern

bulbs of one colour and connect the brass strips so both can be switched on at once.

The whole of the woodwork should be suitably stained and polished or varnished or the wood may be left in its natural state.

Card Holder and Bell Gong provided in this TRUMPS INDICATOR



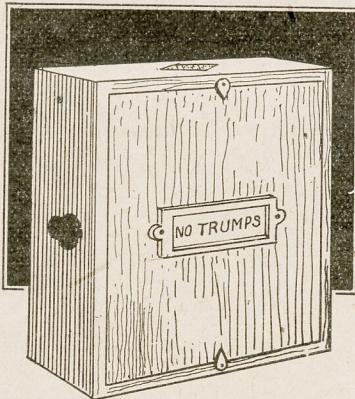
READERS who attend whist drives, very popular at these times, or who arrange such functions themselves, will find this trump indicator most useful. Also, it is provided with a bell as a signal to start the game. The whole is contained in a box, capacious enough to hold several packs of playing cards. Altogether it is an article well-worth the trouble of making.

The Box Framework

First make the box. This is shown in Fig. 1 and is made of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wood, glued and nailed firmly together. At top and bottom on the inside, glue across strips of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wood, as shown. These strips are fixed midway, so are $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from both back and front edges, just enough to allow back and front panels of the box to lie in flush with the outside edges.

The back panel, Fig. 2 is cut from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. fretwood to the dimensions given. Find the centre, and from there, at a distance of 2 ins. make a mark. From this mark, and with a radius of 1 in., strike an arc, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long. Strike an inner arc, $\frac{1}{4}$ in. away and cut out to leave a curved slot.

The bell can be from an old alarm clock, or from a cycle bell. This is fixed on the inside of the panel as



shown. If taken from an alarm clock perhaps the original pillar on which it was mounted can be used again for the same purpose.

If not, a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. dowel rod can be used. This is glued and screwed to the panel and the bell mounted on top of it with another screw. Let the bell be $\frac{3}{8}$ in. or more clear of the panel.

The Gong Striker

For the striker (Fig. 3) get a piece of stiff wire and bend double to the shape shown, the bent sides being $\frac{3}{8}$ in. apart. Cut a piece of thin brass or tin, $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide and 1 in. long. In the centre of this punch a small hole, an easy fit over a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. round-headed screw, and cut out a piece opposite sides to leave four small flanges.

Lay the wire on the tin and bend the flanges over it, secure with a spot of solder. See the wire projects each side of the centre hole the distances given in Fig. 3.

At the long end of the wire fix a small piece of brass, or lead, as a hammer. The short-end of the wire is twisted hook shape. The double end part, A, is then bent with the pliers backwards, at right angles.

The striker is now fixed to the back of the panel with the round-headed screw through the tin centre piece. Its bent up end passes through the

curved slot. The wire with the hammer end passes under the bell, and should be bent a little so that it can strike the bell. Some adjustment with the pliers will make this right.

Striker Action

To the hook end fix a short piece of helical spring, or an elastic band, and stretch it to a screw head, fixed just below. Let the action of the striker be easy, then, on pressing down the trigger end and letting it go the bell will sound. Fix the back panel in place with screws, top and bottom.

The front panel, Fig. 4, is a similar piece of fretwood to the back one. Cut it to the same size. On a sheet of white paper, the same size as the panel, strike the circles and mark the cross lines, shown dotted.

On these, draw in ink the spade, diamond, etc., filling the outlines in, in red or black ink or paint as required. The paper is then glued to the panel.

Back Panel Card

Turn the panel over and along the middle of it glue a piece of thin white card, or paper, on which is neatly printed the words "NO TRUMPS."

This card, or paper can be about 3 ins. long and 1 in. wide. It will be advisable to provide a suitably cut out frame in fretwood, or stout card-board, to fix over the paper strip, which might otherwise, in time, be torn or fall off. It makes a neater finish, too. The panel is then dropped in place and kept there with a metal clip at top and bottom.

A swinging shield is now required to cover up the suits not wanted to show. This is shown at Fig. 5. Mark out on some stiff-cardboard and cut out. In the centre glue at B a disc of thin fretwood, and a second disc at C, where shown. The card should now be stained black all over.

On disc C glue a slip of paper on which is printed the word "TRUMPS"

In the centre of the shield bore a small hole to fit a round-headed screw

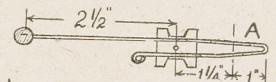


Fig. 3—The striker and spring

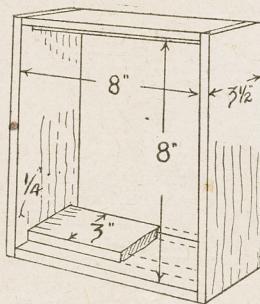
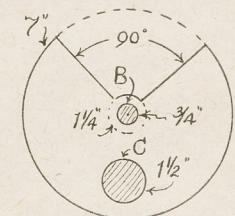


Fig. 1—The box construction

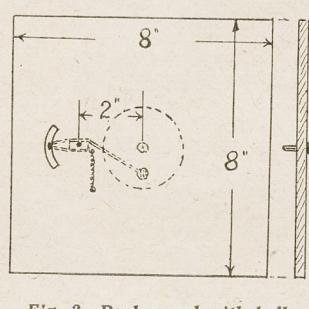


Fig. 2—Back panel with bell mechanism

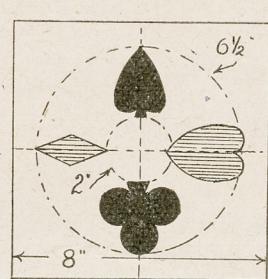


Fig. 4—Marking suit indicators

Fig. 5—The shutter panel

1 in. long. Get a thin metal washer, or make one from tinplate.

Place this at the back of the shield and push the screw through the shield and washer and drive it into the centre of the front panel, the paper covered side of it. The washer between the shield and panel will keep the former from rubbing too much against it.

Let the action be quite free, but not loose, then the shield will swing round whichever way the box is turned, and come to rest in a vertical position, showing a heart, club, or whatever suit is uppermost.

If a 20 in. by 8 in. panel of fretwood is bought, a strip 4 in. by 8 in. will be left. This should be sawn length

wise into two strips, just the right size for divisions to fix across the box, inside. Fix one each side of the bell, the space between them and the top and bottom of the box will be large enough to hold several packs of cards.

Finishing Details

Now give the work a good rub over with fine glasspaper, except the paper covered parts, of course. On each of the four sides of the box glue a heart, diamond, spade or club, respectively, taking care that the same suit is glued each side as that nearest on the panel.

For instance, as a spade is at the top of the panel, glue a spade to the

top of the box. These can be cut from black or red paper, or they can be simply painted on the box in appropriately coloured enamel.

Finish the job by giving the whole work a coat or two of clear varnish. If deal is used for the box stain it to match the fretwork panels as well as possible.

Normally the front panel is used as a lid to the box, with its wood surface outwards. In use this is reversed (unless the order is "no trumps") and the box turned round until the chosen suit is uppermost, the swinging shield showing the desired trump to the players as the bell is sounded to start the game.

Something useful and artistic in the way of a TABLE MATS HOLDER

PRESENTS are terribly difficult to obtain nowadays, but the fretworker has the advantage that he can always "knock up" something suitable at quite a modest cost in labour and materials. Take this picturesque table mat holder (with mats), for example. It is made from two pieces of plywood only 6 ins. square. You ought to be able to find those scraps about somewhere. The best thickness is 3/16 in., but 1 in. will do.

The Shapes

The first thing to do is to make a paper pattern of the cottage front as seen in Fig. 1. This is divided into one-inch squares so you can easily

line, back to "F". You can draw the outlines directly on the wood if you like, or else draw on paper and paste down. Both parts have the base line "0" to "F" the same. This is the only part that is a straight line. Saw out the parts and smooth the edges.

The Mats

Before we go further, let us consider the mats themselves. Quite possibly you may be able to buy a set at the stores, but if unobtainable, or if it is desired to complete the whole job oneself, these can easily be made from scraps of lino, new, if possible, though even sound bits of old lino will do.

Some wax polish and elbow grease

~ One Inch Squares ~

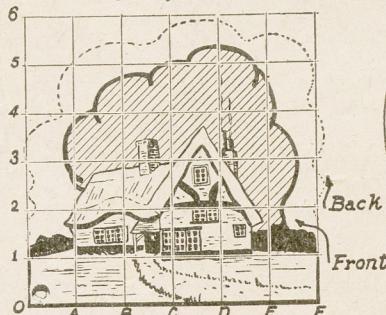


Fig. 1—Marking out for shape

mark your pattern in similar squares and fill in the full-size outline.

One thing about this old cottage: it is composed of bulges and curves so it does not much matter if your drawing is not quite the same as Fig. 1. Note that the front piece starts from point "0" and goes a little beyond "1" and then turns right, along the top of the hedge, then along the roof and round the tree, etc.

Another pattern is required for the back piece. This starts from "0" and goes right up, following the dotted

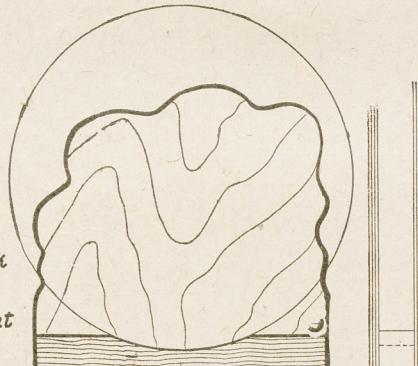
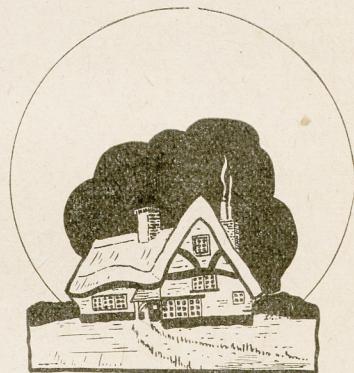


Fig. 2—Front and side view

will liven them up afterwards. A useful size is 8 ins. diameter, and six will be ample—all the same size. Cut with a penknife, using a china plate or something similar (small saucer lid, etc.) as a template.

When you have assembled your pile of mats you can tell the thickness of the base piece (see Fig. 2). You will notice it has a curved piece taken out to accommodate the mats. Before screwing on the back piece, paint it sky-blue, with, if desired, white edges ("silver linings").



The front should be screwed on with two or three small screws well countersunk and the holes filled in with plastic wood.

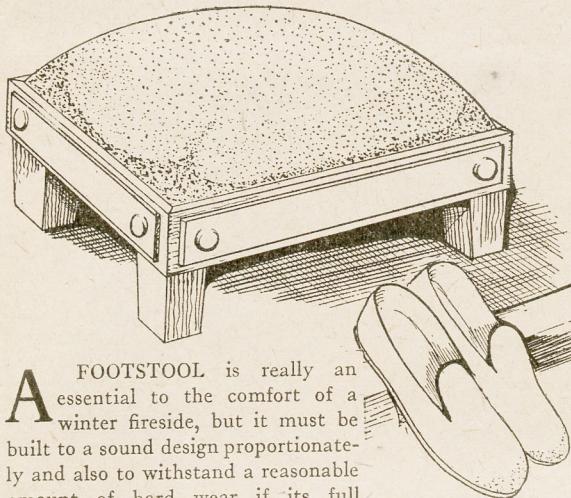
An interesting part is in painting the cottage and garden. As already indicated, no very great accuracy is required. Be patient, however, and do not attempt to do the whole job at one "go" as the colours will surely run one into another. Here is a suggested list of colours—but, of course, you can please yourself.

Colouring

Background trees—dark green with a narrow black border (as on Fig. 1): the hedges (right and left)—medium green: the lawn—light green with faint lines of darker green and little spots of white and yellow for flowers: the garden path—light brown: the thatched roof—yellow brown: the walls, yellow orange with a few bricks picked out in red or brown: the windows—little black squares: the beams—dark brown and black: the chimneys—red with a white wisp of ascending smoke: the door (and window frames)—blue. Notice that one side of the chimney is darker.

It will be seen that when the mats are in position, the effect is as above, whereas when the mats are removed for use, the cottage and trees appear against a blue-sky backing.

A suitable present to make for any home is this SIMPLE FOOTSTOOL



A FOOTSTOOL is really an essential to the comfort of a winter fireside, but it must be built to a sound design proportionately and also to withstand a reasonable amount of hard wear if its full advantage is to be maintained.

We all know that if a stool is left standing in the way how tempted we are to kick it—not always gently—to a more sheltered position under the table again. While actually in use, too, as a comfortable foot rest, the legs of the stool come in for quite a number of hard knocks which all goes to prove how necessary it is to make these plain, heavy and firmly attached to the rest of the frame.

Easy and Cheap

Now is the time to make up one or more stools ready for the long winter evenings. The one illustrated here, and about to be described, fulfils all the requirements of sound proportions, taking width to length, and convenient height for comfort.

Such a stool as this would make a very acceptable gift, and as it is cheap and easy to make, no doubt many of our workers will adopt this suggestion and get busy making a few.

The stool is made in two parts, one, the main lower frame with the four feet attached and an edging rail all round, and the other a plain frame having webbing stretched across it for holding the stuffing which forms the top.

The Framework

It will be apparent from the diagrams that the top frame must be made somewhat smaller than the lower one to allow for the stuffing and the covering material to fit snugly between the edging rails. By studying the cross section of the stool (Fig. 1) it will be seen how the top frame fits down into the rebate formed by the edging rails screwed to the edges of the lower frame.

The screws which are well counter-

sunk are later covered by an overlay of thinner wood on all four sides. The lower frame A will first be made up, and good sound deal will answer well for this frame and also for the frame above it.

Two pieces for the long rails will be required 14ins. long by 2ins. wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and two rails 9ins. long by 2ins. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. for the end rails. These will be carefully marked off for the half-lapped joint shown in the detail in Fig. 2, and in the enlarged

form in the circle.

Take care when sawing the ends that meet to get them square and flat so the top surfaces are even when they are glued and screwed together. Also check the angles for squareness before the final screws are run in.

The Feet

The feet are best made from a harder wood if this can be got. They are 3ins. long and cut tapered from 2ins. at the top to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. at the foot. Glue and screws will hold them securely to the frame. The edging pieces to go round the frame are best measured for length direct from the frame itself, with two thicknesses added for allowance for mitring at the angles. The width of the pieces is $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and the thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in.

The Top Frame

The top frame of the stool has two rails $13\frac{3}{4}$ ins. long by 2ins. wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and two $8\frac{1}{4}$ ins. long by 2ins. by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. These are half-lapped at the ends in the same way as the lower frame. Across the top of the frame four pieces of wide webbing are crossed and nailed on.

On this again is stretched a square of calico or other suitable material

securely tacked to the framing. Spread the stuffing material and over it stretch another piece of calico which, together with the final covering of leatherette or tapestry, is tacked on underneath the frame.

The overlay strips put round the outside are to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. wide by about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, and mahogany or oak would be best for this. All the woodwork showing on the outside

Materials for this week's Design

THE handy and attractive Letter Holder can be made from this week's gift design patterns cut from a parcel of suitable planed wood (No. 2506) supplied by Hobbies Ltd. It is obtainable from their Branches for 5/6 or sent by post from Dereham, Norfolk for 6/1 post free. A suitable piece of backing material is also supplied for another 2d.

including the feet, must be cleaned and stained up as desired and afterwards polished or varnished.

Side Ornament

The upper frame with its padded top may be kept in place by inserting four screws to run up through the main frame into the one above. The four circles at the ends of the side overlays, in the sketch of the stool, may be just plain discs cut from the spare wood of the H4 panel of mahogany which is suggested for these outside overlays.

For both frames of the stool Hobbies Standard Panels are suggested and four OD12, two ND12 and two LD6 will be required with one H4 panel for the outside overlays and discs.

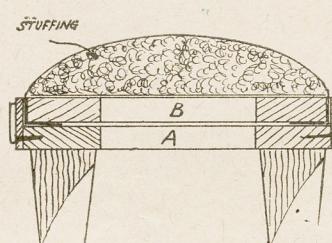


Fig. 1—Sectional view of all parts

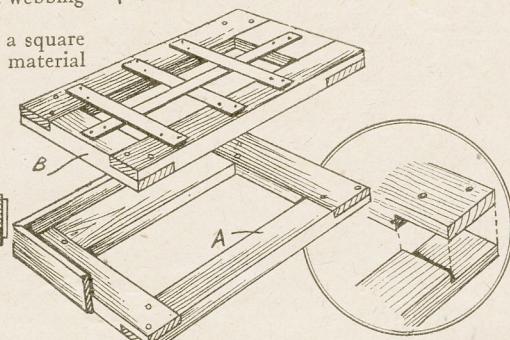


Fig. 2—Construction of the top framework and corner joint

Instruction and patterns for a set suitable for use in POSTER PRINTING

THIS printing set will be found very handy for printing notices of all kinds, concerts, jumble sales and so on. Owing to rubber shortage the letters are cut from thin fretwood, a job easily done with a fretsaw. Full-size letters given on the opposite page.

Wood is not so good for the purpose as rubber, naturally, but printing with it can be done fairly well, and the results are more workmanlike than any likely to be accomplished by hand writing, except when the reader has some skill in poster work. Any-one can use this printing set without skill or experience.

The holders for the letters can be made first. Cut two strips of deal, 18ins. long to the size and sectional shape given in Fig. 1. One strip is for the capital letters and the other for the small letters.

Type Guides

The shape can be worked easily enough if a rebate is chiselled out each side first, as at Fig. 2, then the corner bevelled off, as shown by the dotted lines. Clean up with a plane, rebate plane for choice, and well glasspaper to make all smooth.

At $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from one edge mark a pencil along the bottom surface, as shown in Fig. 1, as a guide to gluing the letters in place correctly. The letters are shown full size on Cover IV, in four panels. Cut the panels out and join together at the dotted lines, A to A1 and B to B1. Paste on to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. fretwood and cut out very carefully with a fine sawblade.

Penknife Work

The small letters, i and j, are cut with the dots above in one piece, and when glued to their holders the dots are separated by a cut with a penknife.

This is better than cutting out the dots separately and fixing them in place afterwards—they might perhaps fall off some time. Another point, cut out the "eyes" in such letters as e, g, etc., before cutting the outlines.

Lay a piece of fine glasspaper on a flat board, and rub the letters over it to remove any splinters. Finish the edges where necessary with a file. It will be understood that the under surface of the letters will be the

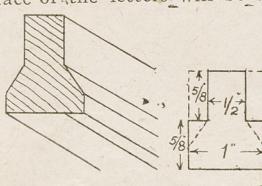


Fig. 1—Letter strip

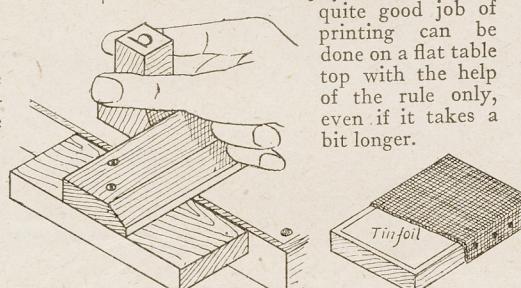
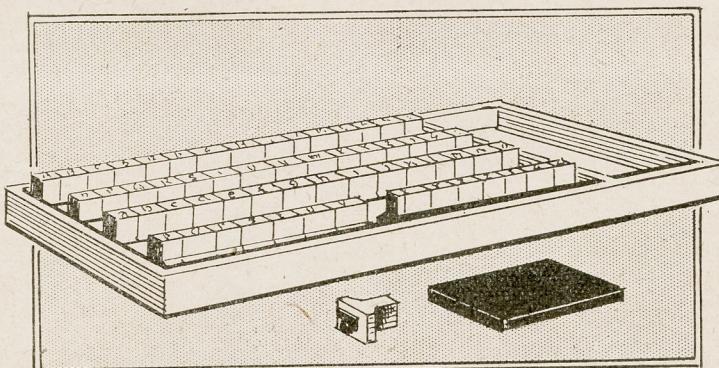


Fig. 2—Shape sizes

Fig. 3—The guiding square



printing face, as they are to be fixed to the holders in reverse, that is turned over. Glue the letters to the holders, taking great care to get them on the pencilled guide line to ensure a good alignment when printing. When the glue is hard, turn the strips over, the letters facing the operator, and divide with a tenon saw into separate letters.

Spacing

The letters should be spaced a full $\frac{1}{4}$ in. apart when gluing to the holder strips, to allow for the loss by sawing. Mark the top of each holder with its letter, in ink plainly, so that the right one can be picked up each time without difficulty.

It will be noticed that only the numerals 2 to 9 are given, the capital letters I and O serve as the 1 and 0 numerals of the set.

The rule, or pattern sheet, can be cut from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. or $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wood, and should be planed to a straight edge. The guides, cut from similar wood, are optional.

They can be glued and nailed, one to each end of the rule, and help to keep the latter at right angles to the side edge of the paper but need a board to operate on, as in Fig. 3.

If enough wood to make a board, say 1ft. 4ins. wide and 1ft. 9ins. long, is available, it will be found most handy to print the posters on, and the rule with its guide lines should slide up and down it smoothly. However, a quite good job of printing can be done on a flat table top with the help of the rule only, even if it takes a bit longer.

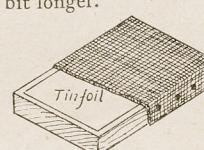


Fig. 4—The ink pad

Now for an ink pad. This is shown in Fig. 4 and is made in a simple manner. A piece of fretwood forms the base, say 4ins. long and 3ins. wide.

Cover this with tin or lead foil, and stretch over it two or three thicknesses of soft cloth tacking the cloth to the edges of the wood. This can be inked with ordinary rubber stamp ink, such as can usually be bought at a stationers.

A Suitable Tray

Complete the outfit by making a tray to hold the letters and pad. This will be seen in the view of the completed printing set. The sides are made of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. by $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deal, or thereabouts, nailed together and provided for economy's sake with a stiff cardboard bottom.

Make the tray with an inside measurement of 5ins. by $12\frac{1}{2}$ ins. At 9ins. from one end nail a division strip across front to back, to divide the tray into two parts. The smaller one can accommodate the pad and ink bottle.

The larger one is again divided, lengthwise, into 4 divisions, with wood or cardboard strips and will be large enough to hold all the letters in alphabetical and numerical order.

Hints on Use

In use, a few thicknesses of news-paper should be laid below the poster paper to make a soft bed. As wood is not resilient like rubber a rather hard pressure will be necessary to get good results.

The letters should be guided to their correct position by pressing them lightly against the edge of the rule as an impression is made.

The first time you use the outfit you may be disappointed with the result. This should not deter you, however, because you will find after one or two more attempts, the process will be easy and the results satisfactory.

You will then be surprised how quickly you can complete some really good examples of printing.

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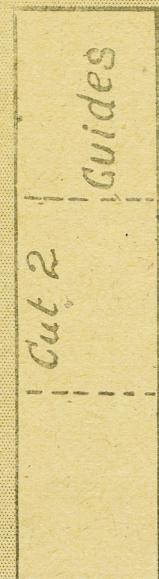
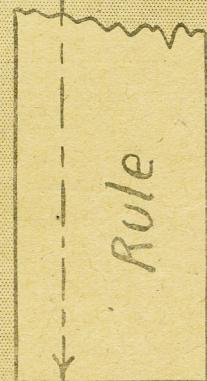
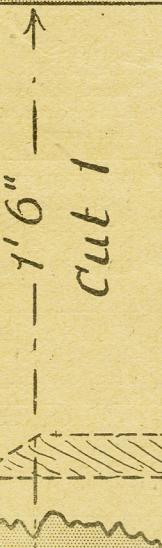
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JKLMNOP



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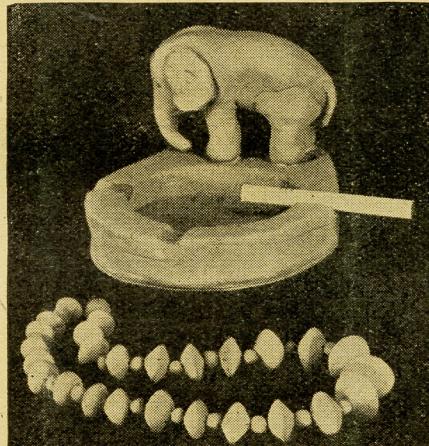
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